



AZPRA Harnessing Spiritual Resources Conference

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Friday, September 26, 2014, 9 a.m.

4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd., Phoenix

Thank you, Lori ... and good morning everyone!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this conference – and I want to thank the people in this room for dedicating your lives to helping Arizonans with behavioral health issues.

As many of you know, this is an issue near and dear to my heart.

Together, we have worked tirelessly to make Arizona a state that treats this population effectively, thoroughly and compassionately.

It wasn't always that way.

For more than three decades, we have been operating under the direction of the courts because Arizona's behavioral health treatment was inadequate.

So we sought to make the system not just better ... but worthy of the people of Arizona. And earlier this year, we came to an agreement with the plaintiffs to end that court stewardship.

It's fitting that I'm here with you now, as we close the book on the Arnold v. Sarn litigation.

Just this week, the Maricopa County Superior Court announced that the judge in the case had signed an order dismissing the lawsuit ... bringing final resolution to this 30-year long case!

This milestone was a culmination of the good-faith, collaborative and diligent efforts of both parties to reach a historic agreement that will properly fund – and fundamentally reform –our behavioral health system.

With this resolution, Arizonans with serious mental illness have access to the services and programs they need that will promote their recovery ... help their integration and participation in society ... and provide them with the care they require and deserve.

But you are here to talk about other resources that can improve the lives of people with mental illness.

I don't wear it on my sleeve, but I am a strong believer in the power of prayer.

I often rely on my faith in my life – as a Governor ... and as a Mom to guide me, to help me, to provide strength, direction and purpose.

Faith continues to be a very important part of how I cope with behavioral health and other important issues affecting my life, my family and the state.

So, it's an honor for me to be here today ... among so many people equally devoted to improving behavioral health and to the power of spirituality.

I thank you for your commitment and advocacy on behalf of your fellow Arizonans.

I hope this conference -- and the connections you make here -- will provide a deeper understanding and perspective that will improve your lives and the lives of those you serve.

God bless you.

Thank you.